

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND
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JANUARY 9, 2018

LAW ENFORCEMENT HOMELESS OUTREACH SERVICES TEAMS

The Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (Sheriff) and Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association (LACPCA) jointly recognize that homelessness is a serious cross-jurisdictional problem in the region. Solving this problem requires a collaborative approach that includes the involvement of a multitude of public services called on to support individuals experiencing homelessness and the communities that are impacted by this crisis.

Our homeless residents not only struggle with living on the streets, but they often suffer from mental and physical health challenges or substance use disorders. Their condition may lead to calls for medical help or involvement with illegal activity, often times as a result of desperate circumstances, lack of family, mental health and/or community support. As a result, law enforcement personnel, along with firefighters/paramedics, are often the initial contact with homeless individuals living on the streets.

There is a lack of data to clearly understand the impact to the Los Angeles County Fire and Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Departments as they are called upon to assist our homeless population. According to the Los Angeles County Fire Department Medical Director, Dr. Clayton Kazan, an overwhelming number of serial 9-1-1 calls come from homeless individuals who are often also suffering from issues with mental health or substance use disorders.

To address this issue, on June 13, 2017, the Board approved a motion to allocate \$1-million of AB 109 funding annually for three years for non-Sheriff/non-Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) police agencies to establish Service Planning Area (SPA) law enforcement outreach teams, which will be called Homeless Outreach Services Teams (HOSTs).

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The mission of the HOSTs is twofold: 1) work collaboratively with public and private partners to assist with street engagement of homeless individuals, and 2) address problems associated with homeless encampments. The HOST teams will work in collaboration with homeless outreach teams consisting of case managers and housing, mental health, and supportive services experts, to connect homeless individuals with services, shelter, and housing. The law enforcement HOSTs will also focus on forming community partnerships with local leaders, civic groups, and faith and community based organizations to bring about community awareness on services available to assist homeless individuals. The Sheriff shall be the directing body for HOSTs in the County and will collaborate with LACPCA to assist with coordination of HOSTs with local police departments. Additionally, the Sheriff will be responsible for reporting on law enforcement HOST issues and activities to the Board of Supervisors and Chief Executive Office (CEO), and developing HOST outcome reports.

On June 26, 2017, the Board approved a motion authorizing a funding agreement with the City of Arcadia to serve as the fiscal agent to administer the annual \$1-million in AB 109 funding on behalf of the LACPCA. The City of Arcadia subsequently informed the Sheriff that it was unable to act as the fiscal agent for this effort. Fortunately, the City of Pomona has graciously agreed to act as the fiscal agent to administer AB 109 funding for the HOSTs.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Direct the Chief Executive Officer work with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to analyze the impact to these departments in their work to assist homeless individuals and report back to the Board within 90 days with information including, but not limited to:
 - a) Number of 9-1-1 and emergency calls for service responding to homeless individuals within a specified time frame;
 - b) Number of 9-1-1 and emergency calls for service involving homeless individuals who suffer from substance abuse and/or mental health issues;
 - c) Number of 9-1-1 and emergency calls for service involving homeless individuals that result in arrest or transportation to medical treatment; and
- 2) Authorize the Sheriff to enter into an MOA with the City of Pomona to act as the fiscal agent on behalf of the LACPCA for non-Sheriff/non-LAPD SPA HOSTs.

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